

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
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R 191155Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4269  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
AMEMBASSY BISSAU  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMCONSUL LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMCONSUL PRAIA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 04182

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PEPR, OAU, SP  
SUBJECT: CONTINUING SPANISH EFFORT TO HEAD OFF OAU ACTION  
ON CANARIES AT KHARTOUM

REF: MADRID 3516 (NOTAL); NOUAKCHOTT 978 (NOTAL)

1. PLANS ARE FIRING UP FOR THE TWO PARLIAMENTARY  
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MISSIONS TO VISIT VARIOUS AFRICAN COUNTRIES AS PART OF  
SPAIN'S EFFORT TO HEAD OFF, AT THE KHARTOUM OAU SUMMIT  
MEETING, ANY ACTION SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE TRIPOLI MEETIN  
WHICH ENDORSED THE "COLONIAL STATUS" OF THE CANARIES.  
THE MISSIONS, TO BE HEADED RESPECTIVELY BY THE CHAIRMEN  
OF THE TWO CHAMBERS' FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES, ARE  
TO TRAVEL IN LATE APRIL AND EARLY MAY. THAT HEADED BY

CONGRESSMAN IGNACIO CAMUNAS IS NOW EXPECTED TO VISIT LIBYA, ALGERIA, TANZANIA, ANGOLA, AND MOZAMBIQUE, WHILE THE GROUP LED BY SENATOR MARIANO AGUILAR NAVARRO IS TO GO TO SENEGAL, GUINEA-BISSAU, GUINEA, BENIN, AND NIGERIA.

2. WHILE THE EXACT COMPOSITION OF THE GROUPS HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED, AS PLANS NOW STAND THEY WILL BOTH INCLUDE CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS ALIKE, AND AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF EACH WILL BE FROM THE CANARIES. BOTH GROUPS WILL INCLUDE REPRESENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT UCD AND OF THE SOCIALIST PSOE, THE MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY. (NOTE FOR INFO ADDRESSEES: THE PSOE, WHILE IDEOLOGICALLY SYMPATHETIC TO ALGERIA AND SUPPORTIVE WESTERN SAHARA, IS AS FIRM AS ALL OTHER MAJOR POLITICAL GROUPS HERE ON THE POINT THAT THE CANARIES ARE SPANISH. THE U.S. POSITION ON THE CANARIES IS ALSO UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT THE CANARIES ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF SPAIN.)

3. ON THE EXECUTIVE SIDE, FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA HAS ALREADY COMPLETED THE FIRST OF THREE TRIPS HE PLANS TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES FOR THE SAME PURPOSE. JUDGING BY COMMENTS TO US FROM MFA SOURCES, THAT TRIP, A SERIES OF FAST VISITS APRIL 7-9 TO MAURITANIA, SENEGAL, MALI, AND THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS, BROUGHT MIXED RESULTS: THE STOP IN NOUAKCHOTT, WE WERE TOLD, FOUND THE EXPECTED IDENTITY OF VIEWS, AND IN DAKAR, SENEGALESE OFFICIALS

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SEEMED EAGER TO CLEAR UP THE COMBINATION OF SPANISH RESENTMENT AND SENEGALESE ABASHMENT AT THE FAILURE OF THE SENEGALESE DELEGATION TO SUPPORT SPAIN IN TRIPOLI. OREJA REPORTEDLY FOUND HIS NEW MALIAN COUNTERPART "HOPELESS" IN HIS LACK OF GRASP OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHILE THE CAPE VERDIANS SHOWED THEMSELVES WARY, AS NEW OAU MEMBERS, OF GETTING INTO TROUBLE, AND AS TENDING TO SEE THE SITUATION OF THE CANARY ISLANDS AS COMPARABLE TO THEIR OWN -- WHICH OF COURSE IT IS NOT.

4. SPANISH OFFICIALS CLEARLY RECOGNIZE THAT IN ANY NUMBER OF THE COUNTRIES VISITED DURING THIS CAMPAIGN, HOST GOVERNMENTS WILL SHOW THEMSELVES BOTH RELUCTANT TO BUCK WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE OAU TIDE, AND LARGELY IGNORANT OF THE ALL-SPANISH ETHNIC NATURE OF THE CANARY POPULATION. THEY ARE DETERMINED TO GO AHEAD ANYWAY, IN THE HOPE OF MAKING AT LEAST SOME EDUCATIONAL AND DIPLOMATIC HEADWAY, AND OF DEMONSTRATING TO LOCAL CRITICS THAT THEY ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PAVE THE WAY TO KHARTOUM. THEY WILL ALSO BE SHARING THE EFFORT -- AND THEREBY POSSIBLY ALSO THE EVENTUAL BLAME -- WITH THE PSOE, AND IN THE BARGAIN GIVING PSOE PARLIAMENTARIANS

A DIRECT TASTE OF THE AFRICAN REALITY.

5. OREJA HAS ALSO SENT A LETTER ON THE CANARIES TO HIS COUNTERPARTS IN ALL THE OAU AND ARAB LEAGUE COUNTRIES, AND PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ HAS WRITTEN TO HIS OPPOSITE NUMBERS IN THE COUNTRIES OREJA VISITED, REHEARSING THE SPANISH POSITION ONCE AGAIN. WHILE SPANISH OFFICIALS ARE BY NO MEANS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT SPANISH SUCCESS AT KHARTOUM, THE GOS GOAL IS TO GET AT LEAST FIFTEEN COUNTRIES ON ITS SIDE, I.E. A LARGE ENOUGH GROUP TO ASSURE THAT FURTHER OAU ACTION ON THE CANARIES WILL BE EFFECTIVELY BLOCKED. STABLER

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## Message Attributes

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